

A New Genus and Species of Prosobranch Gastropod (?Fascioliidae) from the Mariana Islands

by

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Abstract. A new genus and species of prosobranch gastropod, *Falsilatirus pacificus*, is described from deep water off Arakane Reef, in the Northern Mariana Islands. The questionable placement of this new species in the family Fascioliidae is based on shell characters owing to the unavailability of soft parts for study.

INTRODUCTION

Deepwater shrimp trapping operations were conducted from 1982 to 1984 by the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Fisheries Center Honolulu Laboratory as part of their Resource Assessment Investigation of the Mariana Archipelago (RAIOMA) program. Incidental catches in these operations included shells of several gastropod mollusks (D. B. Smith and R. B. Moffitt, unpublished data). Some of these mollusks were collected alive, but most were carried into baited traps by hermit crabs of the genus *Trizopagurus*. Among these transported shells were three crabbed specimens of a distinctive new genus and species of prosobranch gastropod that is described herein as *Falsilatirus pacificus* and tentatively placed in the Fascioliidae.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Family FASCIOLIIDAE Gray, 1847

Falsilatirus Emerson & Moffitt, gen. nov.

Type species: *Falsilatirus pacificus* Emerson & Moffitt, sp. nov.

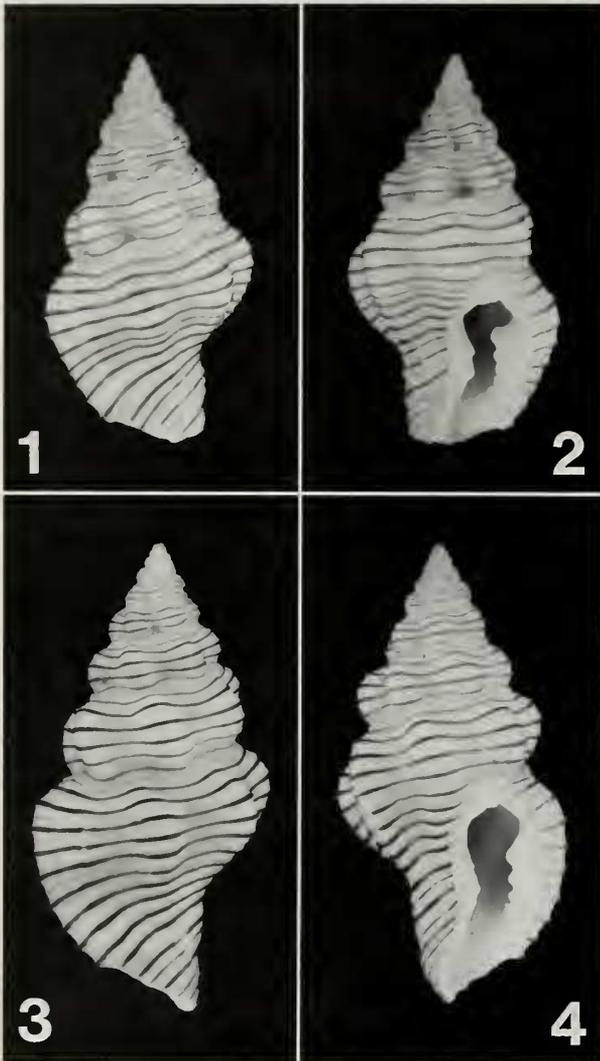
Diagnosis: Shell in general shape and coloration somewhat resembles certain of the finely lirate *Latirus* Montfort,

1810, type species: *L. gibbulus* (Gmelin, 1791). Differs from the known fascioliid genera in having distinctive labial and columellar dentition and by having a recurved siphonal canal. See description of the type species.

Falsilatirus pacificus Emerson & Moffitt, sp. nov.

(Figures 1-4)

Description: Shell angulate fusiform, solid and attaining $7\frac{1}{2}$ postnuclear whorls (embryonic whorls not preserved) and 42+ mm in length. Post-embryonic whorls strongly axially ribbed, with 5 elongate nodules on the body whorl. Surface colored pale buff and ornamented with conspicuous, dark brown, evenly spaced spiral cords throughout. Midportion of whorls encircled with a paler, whitish band. Whorls of the spire with 3 or 4 dark brown, primary spiral cords; body whorl with 12 primary cords, extending from the suture to near the base. Interspaces between the primary spiral cords sculptured with a minor pale brown cord medially placed between 3 or 4 spiral lirations. Aperture white, prominently dentate with an open anal groove and a recurved siphonal canal (anterior portion lost to breakage). Outer lip with a submarginal, shelflike projection armed with 6 semifused denticles, the largest positioned posteriorly. Columella with a slightly raised outer margin



Explanation of Figures 1 to 4

Figures 1–4. Type specimens of *Falsilatirus pacificus* Emerson & Moffitt, sp. nov. Figures 1, 2: paratype a. Figures 3, 4: holotype. All figures $\times 1.5$.

and with 2 denticle-like plicae, the anterior one forming a major fold. Radula and soft parts not seen.

Measurements in mm, holotype: 41.67 in length, 20.84 in width (Figures 3, 4); paratype a: 35.86 in length, 19.32 in width (Figures 1, 2); paratype b: 31.25 in length, 16.26 in width.

Type locality: Off Arakane Reef, Northern Mariana Islands, 15°38.4'N, 142°46.2'E, in 123–503 m (67–275 fathoms), NOAA ship *Townsend Cromwell*, cruise TC 83-05, station 167, taken in shrimp traps, 19 December 1983.

Distribution: Known only from the type locality.

Type depository: Holotype, American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), no. 225996; paratype a, United

States National Museum, no. 859320; paratype b, AMNH no. 225997.

Remarks: As mentioned above, these specimens, which lack preserved embryonic whorls, suggest the fascioliid genus *Latirus*, especially from the dorsal aspect and by the presence of a prominent spiral columellar fold. For example, see *Latirus angulatus* (RÖDING, 1798:118; BULLOCK, 1974:figs. 16–21) from the western Atlantic and *L. filosus* (SCHUBERT & WAGNER, 1829:100, pl. 227, figs. 4019, 4020; ABBOTT & DANCE, 1982:184, illus.) from west Africa. The known latiroid species, however, have a non-recurved siphonal canal and mostly lack denticles inside the outer lip. In the buccinid subfamily Pisaniinae Gray, 1857, many taxa possess shells with denticulate outer lips (subfamily reviewed by CERNOHORSKY, 1971, 1975), but generally lack a spiral ridge on the parietal wall. See especially *Clivipollia pulchra* (REEVE, 1846, *Ricinula*, no. 20, pl. 3, figs. 20a, b; PONDER, 1972:264, pl. 25, fig. 4; ABBOTT & DANCE, 1982:172, illus.) from the western Pacific. On the bases of shell characters alone, data are not sufficient for unequivocal assignment to either the Fascioliidae or Buccinidae. We have tentatively referred this new genus and species to the former family, owing largely to the presence of a distinctive columellar fold. Final familial placement must await the acquisition and study of the radula and soft parts of this new taxon.

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